

Cheer us on! Manager Williams tells fans

WYCOMBE Wanderers' manager Andy Williams called for loud vocal support from the fans for tomorrow's crucial F.A. Trophy second round replay at Loakes Park tomorrow (Saturday).

A large crowd is expected for this second 'clash of the giants' and Mr Williams thinks that support from the terraces could swing the balance in Wycombe's favour.

"I hope the crowd will keep us going just like the Blyth fans did when their side were behind on Saturday," he said. "It will be a great help to us, if the crowd keep cheering."

Mr Williams is also quick to point out that the tie is very far

from over, as some fans felt after the 1-1 draw at Croft Park.

"We've achieved nothing yet. Blyth produce some of their best cup performances away from home. This year they drew at York before losing at home, and during last year's run, they won at Stoke and earned a draw at Wrexham before losing the replay at Newcastle.

"They might be more difficult to play against this time. But the advantage we have is that we'll have the fans cheering us on."

TOUGHER

Blyth certainly could prove tougher this time, as they were desperately short of match practice before the first match, where they felt they never got into their stride.

The much-heralded Blyth

forward line rarely threatened the Wycombe rearguard and the only goal came from midfield man Alan Walker, scoring for the first time this season. But Mr Williams still regards them as a threat.

Both clubs are likely to field the same line-ups. For Wycombe Keith Mead has recovered from his knock in the eye, while Paul Birdseye, who missed Tuesday's victory over Maidenhead with an abscess in his mouth, should be fit. Bobby Davies is still out with his knee injury.

Blyth had a doubt last week about midfielder Dave Varty, who injured his back. But he suffered no adverse effects after coming on as substitute and is certain to play.

Blues had an ideal warm-up for the 'big game' when they recovered their scoring touch

against Maidenhead, without suffering any further injuries. Meanwhile Blyth had to sit it out as their County Cup tie with Whitley Bay had to be called off because of a waterlogged pitch.

PITCH VITAL

Indeed the pitch could prove a vital factor as Blyth will take some time getting used to the Loakes Park slope, while the state of the ground after the recent foul weather could militate against stylish football. But the determination of both sides to win this time, should make it an exciting spectacle.

Extra time will be played if necessary. The last thing both clubs want is another replay, after the cost and worry they have already gone through to get this tie decided.

BLUES HIT UNITED FOR SIX

WYCOMBE showed the ruthlessness that has been missing for much of their play this season when they completely swamped local rivals Maidenhead United in the mud at Loakes Park on Tuesday night.

This twice postponed Berks and Bucks Senior Cup third round tie promised to be a tough one for Wycombe. But in the event, they turned on a devastating performance of marksmanship to leave their opponents sunk without trace.

It was not just in front of goal that the Blues looked so sharp. They tried all sorts of inventive tactics and everything they did, succeeded on the night. Let's hope they can keep it up for tomorrow's big match.

With this Senior Cup tie pinned between their two encounters with Blyth, Wycombe could have been excused if they had given less than 100 per cent. But the players never gave an inch and were rewarded with their highest score of the season.

By the end, Maidenhead's tired team must have felt rather like the dispirited Australian cricketers, so outclassed were they. Yet, they, too, never gave up in what proved to be a stirring match in tricky conditions.

Heavy rain during the evening left giant puddles on the pitch at

Wycombe Wand 6, Maidenhead United 1 Report by MICHAEL KNOX

the start. But the pitch stood up remarkably well as the players sensibly made use of the drier ground on the flanks.

PENALTY

The ground conditions contributed in some part to Wycombe's first goal after 18 minutes. Mick Holfield was unable to keep his footing after being tackled from behind by Glyn Cowlishaw and fell inside the penalty area. The referee had no option but to award a penalty and Howard Kennedy scored from the spot.

Blues forced seven corners in the first 10 minutes but it was from their eighth in the 20th minute that they scored again in remarkable fashion.

Terry Scott took a short cor-

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ner to Kennedy, who returned it immediately. Scott, from the right touch-line curled in a left footed cross, which somehow eluded goalkeeper Ian Bath and went inside the far post.

This was their first goal from a corner for months but they had to wait only 15 minutes for the next one. Scott took an inswinger from the right, Steve Hardwick flicked on at the near post and

Judd applied the finishing touch at the far post.

Maidenhead, who had started so slowly, then began to show glimpses of the form that has taken them to the fringe of the Isthmian Division One promotion race. Alan Cordice, who has interested such clubs as Wimbledon and Reading, accelerated down the left and sent over a cross that Peter Spit-tle could not hold. Derek Harris's shot for goal hit Keith Mead on the line and was cleared.

INSPIRATION

Right on half-time United pulled back a goal when Mick Chatterton rifled home a powerful left foot shot following a free-kick on the edge of the penalty area.

For a while, at the start of the second half, the visitors threatened to force their way back into the game. But Wycombe's fourth goal in the 61st minute ended any hopes of a revival.

Stewart Atkins first of all netted but the referee had already halted play for a foul on the Wycombe player. Kennedy

ensured that justice was done by firing a deadly free-kick just inside the left hand post.

Sensing his side needed some inspiration, Magpies player/manager Geoff Anthony came on for right back Steve Palfrey. Anthony did not meet with success but Wycombe's two substitutes Dylan Evans and Steve Long scored their side's final two goals.

First Evans prodded the ball over the line from three yards after Ian Bath had failed to hold Long's low curling centre and then Long himself got on to the scoring sheet by driving the ball into the roof of the net with the United defence in complete disarray. But they held out for the final 10 minutes.

Overall this was a highly encouraging result for Wycombe who will now entertain old rivals Slough Town in the semi-final next month.

WYCOMBE: P. Spittle; S. Hardwick, J. Priestley, K. Mead, A. Phillips, L. Reed, S. Atkins, M. Holfield, M. Judd (sub: S. Long 45 mins), H. Kennedy (capt), T. Scott (sub: D. Evans 76 mins).

MAIDENHEAD: I. Bath; S. Palfrey (sub: G. Anthony 69 mins), B. Mason, S. Green, M. Chatterton, M. Tripp, R. Gosnell, G. Cowlishaw, D. Harris, G. Cordice, A. Cordice. Sub (not used): E. Jedzejczak.

Referee: R. C. Sibley (Tilehurst).

Half-time 3-1. Scorers: Wycombe — Kennedy (pen 18, 61), Scott (20), Judd (35), Evans (78), Long (80); Maidenhead — Chatterton (45).